

Chronic Cough Paediatrics Red Flags

History, cough pointers and ▶ red flags

Chronic wet/productive, mixed wet/dry OR dry cough?

Sputum Colour

Exposure to airborne irritants (smoke)

Family history

History of GORD

Chest tightness/wheeze

Cardiac abnormalities

Exposure to Tuberculosis

Neurodevelopmental abnormalities

Recurrent otitis media/sinus disease/discharge

Feeding difficulties

Lack of vaccinations

History of immunodeficiency

Recurrent pneumonia

Breathlessness

▶ Chest pain

Less than 1 year old/ ▶ Neonatal onset

▶ Failure to thrive

▶ Haemoptysis

▶ History of inhaled foreign body

▶ Cough associated with swallowing

▶ Night sweats

Clinical examination of throat, chest, ear, checking for cough pointers

▶ cyanosis, ▶ respiratory distress, RR, digital clubbing, eczema, nasal crease, chest wall deformities, crackles, wheeze, ▶ stridor

▶ RED FLAGS present in the history or examination?

Stridor	Abrupt onset (inhalation of foreign body)	Cough with feeding	Haemoptysis
Neonatal onset	Signs of chronic lung disease	Dyspnoea, chest pain	Cyanosis
Continuous unremitting or worsening cough		Night sweats	Weight loss

YES, red flags:

Requires specialist paediatric respiratory discussion/urgent referral/A&E.